

**WHEREAS**, Florida's future prosperity depends on nurturing the healthy development of over 4 million children currently living, growing and learning within our many diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that safe and nurturing relationships and stimulating and stable environments improve brain development and a child's well being, while neglectful or abusive experiences and unstable or stressful environments increase the odds of poor childhood outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the abuse and neglect of children can cause severe, costly and lifelong problems affecting all of society, including physical and mental health problems, school failure and criminal behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the children of Clay County deserve to live and grow in healthy, nurturing environments, free from threats of violence and harm; and

**WHEREAS**, all Clay County individuals, businesses, schools, faith-based and community organizations should make children a top priority and take action to support the physical, social, emotional and educational development and competency of all children; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, Kids First of Florida along with the Department of Children and Families, law enforcement, other public and private sector agencies, childcare professionals, child advocates and Clay County residents will be promoting community involvement to reduce parental isolation and conducting awareness efforts that educate parents and help prevent abuse before it starts;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Clay County Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April as

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

in Clay County, Florida and encourage all citizens to help protect our children and work to create strong healthy communities.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

**ATTEST:**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**S. C. Kopelousos  
County Manager and Clerk to the  
Board of County Commissioners**

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**Gavin Rollins, Chairman**

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**Mike Cella, Vice Chairman**

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**Diane Hutchings**

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**Wayne Bolla**

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**Gayward Hendry**